

REMARKS

Administrative Overview

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claims 8-15 are no longer pending having been withdrawn from further consideration in response to the restriction requirement mailed January 24, 2003. Applicant hereby amends claims 1 and 2. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Support for amended claims 1 and 2 can be found throughout the originally-filed claims and the specification, for example, in originally filed claims 4 and 2. Further, Applicant cancels claim 4 without prejudice. As such, claims 1-3, and 5-7 are now presented for the Examiner's reconsideration.

The Office action rejects claims 1-2 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Su et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,610,416). Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA (Fig. 1) in view of Scholl (U.S. Patent No. 4,544,938).

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Based Upon Su et al.; AAPA (Fig. 1); and Scholl

Applicant submits that in light of the amendment to claim 1, the rejections based upon Su et al.; AAPA (Fig. 1); and Scholl are now moot. Applicant specifically reserves the right to file a continuation application directed to the claims cancelled in this amendment and withdrawn in response to the restriction requirement.

Objections to Claims Depending from Rejected Base Claims

Claim 4 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner points out in the Office action that this claim would be allowable in independent form if amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that amended claim 1 includes all of the limitations of original claim 4 and therefore is now allowable. Applicant submits that claims 2, 3, and 5-7 are now allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that on the basis of the foregoing remarks and claim amendments, claims 1-3, and 5-7 are in condition for allowance. Should any further issues be determined to exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the favorable prosecution of this application.

In light of the foregoing, we submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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